comprising bringing compounds suspected of being capable of inhibiting the metalloprotease activity of the NEP II polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 into contact with said polypeptide and determining which of said compounds inhibit the metalloprotease activity of said NEP II polypeptide.--

Please amend Claim 14 as follows:

--14. (Amended) [The use] A method of-using as claimed in claim 13, [in which] wherein said disorders are [chosen from] selected from the group consisting of cardiovascular and neurodegenerative diseases, growth disorders of endocrine origin, disturbances of the hypothlamo-hypophysial axis and endocrine conditions.--

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants are amending Claims 13 and 14 to be more proper under U.S. form and to eliminate multiple dependent claims. In addition, Applicants are providing herewith a computer diskette of the sequence listing and are incorporating into the present specification a paper copy of the sequence listing in computer readable form.

Examination and allowance of the present claims are thus earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted, LARSON & TAYLOR, PLC

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